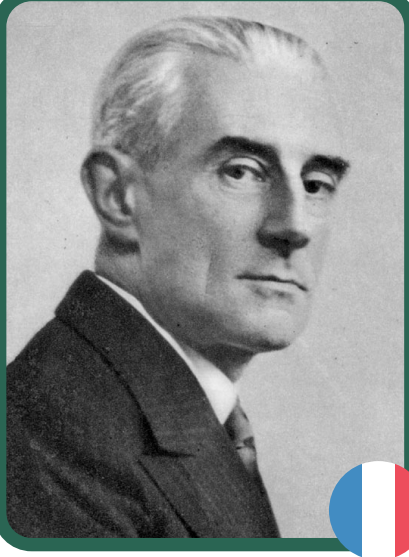




COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**MAURICE RAVEL**

BORN: March 7, 1875

ERA/STYLE: French Impressionist

DIED: December 28, 1937

HOMETOWN: Ciboure, France

Maurice Ravel was born in France in 1875. His father was a Swiss civil engineer, and his mother was a native of France. He inherited a gift for music and an aptitude for mechanical things from his father. He began to take piano lessons when he was 7 years old, and a few years later he started to compose music of his own. Ravel was just 14 when he entered the Paris Conservatory.

When World War I began, Ravel was anxious to enlist and serve his beloved France. After the war, he traveled around Europe conducting and performing his music. He made an American tour in 1928.

Ravel was influenced by Impressionistic and Russian music. However, he did not stay with any one style of composition and once said that a composer should create what he feels without regard to style. He believed that great music came from the heart. Ravel always worked slowly and carefully on his compositions. He achieved originality, grace, and intense beauty in his music.